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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/812,008	03/26/2004	William C. Sanford	7784-000366DVA	2662

27572 7590 03/11/2005

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EXAMINER
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NELSON JR, MILTON

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3636

DATE MAILED: 03/11/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/812,008

Applicant(s)

SANFORD ET AL.

Examiner

Milton Nelson, Jr.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 December 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>12/06/04</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Information Disclosure Statement***

The information referred to in the information disclosure statement filed December 6, 2004 has been considered.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gevaert (6179381). Gevaert shows all structural features of the claimed invention. Gevaert lacks only the specifically recited method for forming steps. Note the single cable (48), conductors (92a, 92b, 92c), electronics distribution system (98a, 94a; 94b, 98b; 94c, 96), independent electronic components (items to be connected at 44), and a video display unit (laptop computer). It would have been obvious, if not inherent, to one having ordinary skill in the pertinent art at the time of the instant invention to modify Gevaert by using the specifically claimed method to form his assembly. Such reduces the number of steps for forming the assembly, thereby providing an efficient method that provides cost and time savings.

Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gevaert (6179381), as applied to claim 1, above, and further in view of either Izui et al (5834698). Gevaert, as modified above, shows all features of the claimed invention with the exception of the use of the cable to supply signals, as well as power, to at least one of the independent electronic components. Izui et al conventionally teaches configuring a cable as a composite cable (1) that supplies both signals and power to a component. Note the discussion in the abstract. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the pertinent art at the time of the instant invention to further modify Gevaert in view of the teachings of Izui et al by configuring the cable as a composite cable with means to supply signals, as well as power, to at least one of the independent electronic components. Such provides additional uses for the cable without increasing the number of separate cables necessary for the assembly.

Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gevaert (6179381), as applied to claim 1, above, and further in view of either Robinson (4509097). Gevaert, as modified above, shows all features of the claimed invention with the exception of the single cable being a ribbon cable. Robinson conventionally teaches configuring a cable as a ribbon cable (10). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the pertinent art at the time of the instant invention to further modify Gevaert in view of the teachings of Robinson by configuring the cable as a

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ribbon cable. Such can conventionally reduce the necessary space required for routing the cable through the assembly.

Claims 5, 7 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gevaert (6179381). Gevaert shows all features of the claimed invention and the specifically recited method for forming steps. Note the single cable (48), conductors (92a, 92b, 92c) to supply power to at least one of the independent electronic components (items connected at 44), distribution subsystem (98a, 94a; 94b, 98b; 94c, 96) for providing signals (power signals in the form of voltage) to one of the independent electronic components, a video display unit (laptop computer), and audio interface (laptop computer). It would have been obvious, if not inherent, to one having ordinary skill in the pertinent art at the time of the instant invention to modify Gevaert by using the specifically claimed method to form his assembly. Such reduces the number of steps for forming the assembly, thereby providing an efficient method that provides cost and time savings.

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gevaert (6179381), as applied to claim 5, above, and further in view of either Robinson (4509097). Gevaert, as modified above, shows all features of the claimed invention with the exception of the single cable being a ribbon cable. Robinson conventionally teaches configuring a cable as a ribbon cable (10). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the pertinent art at the time of the instant invention to further

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modify Gevaert in view of the teachings of Robinson by configuring the cable as a ribbon cable. Such can conventionally reduce the necessary space required for routing the cable through the assembly.

Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gevaert (6179381), as applied to claim 5, above, and further in view of either Schumacher et al (5795018). Gevaert, as modified above, shows all features of the claimed invention with the exception of supporting a plurality of independent electronic components comprises supporting a personal control unit. Schumacher et al conventionally teaches configuring a plurality of independent electronic components as comprising the supporting of a personal control unit (9B). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the pertinent art at the time of the instant invention to further modify Gevaert in view of the teachings of Schumacher et al by configuring the support of the plurality of independent electronic components as comprising the supporting of a personal control unit. Such conventionally enhances user control of the components of the assembly.

Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gevaert (6179381), as applied to claim 5, above, and further in view of either Kircher (4537469). Gevaert, as modified above, shows all features of the claimed invention with the exception of interfacing the distribution subsystem with the independent electronic components via a fiber optic coupling. Kircher teaches interfacing a distribution

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subsystem with independent electronic components via a fiber optic coupling. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the pertinent art at the time of the instant invention to further modify Gevaert in view of the teachings of Kircher by interfacing the distribution subsystem with the independent electronic components via a fiber optic coupling. Incorporation of fiber optics in place of the conventional wiring reduces electrical interference, thereby enhancing the efficiency of the transfer of power.

Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gevaert (6179381), as applied to claim 5, above, and further in view of either Shields, Jr (5865503). Gevaert, as modified above, shows all features of the claimed invention with the exception of interfacing the distribution subsystem with a telephone. Shields, Jr. teaches interfacing a distribution subsystem a telephone (note the abstract). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the pertinent art at the time of the instant invention to further modify Gevaert in view of the teachings of Shields Jr. by interfacing the distribution subsystem with a telephone. Such provides the user with a means for conducting a telephone conversation while using the assembly.

Claims 12-14, 16, 18 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gevaert (6179381) in view of Prior Art Figure 1 of the instant application. Gevaert shows all features of the claimed invention with the exception of the location on a seat in a mobile platform, and the specifically recited method for

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controlling steps. Note the cable (48), conductors (92a, 92b, 92c) to supply power to at least one of the independent electronic components (items connected at 44), distribution subsystem (98a, 94a; 94b, 98b; 94c, 96) for providing signals (power signals in the form of voltage) to one of the independent electronic components, a video display unit (laptop computer), and audio interface (laptop computer). The Prior Art Figure shows use of a system having means for controlling electronic components located in on a seat in a mobile platform. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the pertinent art at the time of the instant invention to modify Gevaert in view of the teachings of the Prior Art Figure by locating the assembly on a mobile platform. This modification conventionally provides the advantages of Gevaert's assembly in a non-stationary environment.

It would have been obvious, if not inherent, to one having ordinary skill in the pertinent art at the time of the instant invention to further modify Gevaert by using the specifically claimed method to control the electronic components of his assembly. Such reduces the number of steps for controlling the assembly, thereby enhancing ease of control for a user of the assembly.

Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gevaert (6179381) in view of Prior Art Figure 1 of the instant application, as applied to claim 12, above, and further in view of either Robinson (4509097). Gevaert, as modified above, shows all features of the claimed invention with the exception of the cable being a ribbon cable. Robinson conventionally teaches configuring a cable as a ribbon cable



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(10). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the pertinent art at the time of the instant invention to further modify Gevaert in view of the teachings of Robinson by configuring the cable as a ribbon cable. Such can conventionally reduce the necessary space required for routing the cable through the assembly.

Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gevaert (6179381) in view of Prior Art Figure 1 of the instant application, as applied to claim 12, above, and further in view of either Schumacher et al (5795018). Gevaert, as modified above, shows all features of the claimed invention with the exception of supplying power to a personal control unit. Schumacher et al conventionally teaches configuring an assembly wherein power is supplied to a personal control unit (9B). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the pertinent art at the time of the instant invention to further modify Gevaert in view of the teachings of Schumacher et al by configuring the assembly to supply power to a personal control unit. Such conventionally enhances user control of the components of the assembly.

Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gevaert (6179381), as applied to claim 12, above, and further in view of either Shields, Jr (5865503). Gevaert, as modified above, shows all features of the claimed invention with the exception of interfacing the distribution subsystem with a telephone. Shields, Jr. teaches interfacing a distribution subsystem a telephone (note the abstract). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the pertinent art at the time of the

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instant invention to further modify Gevaert in view of the teachings of Shields Jr. by interfacing the distribution subsystem with a telephone. Such provides the user with a means for conducting a telephone conversation while using the assembly.

### ***Response to Amendment/Arguments***

Applicant's response filed December 6, 2004 has been fully considered.

Remaining issues are discussed above. Prior art rejections have been provided based on consideration on newly cited prior art. As such, the previous indication of allowable subject matter has been withdrawn.

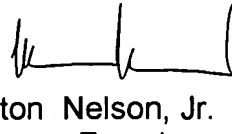
### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Milton Nelson, Jr. whose telephone number is 7033082117. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Wednesday 5:30-3:00, and alternate Fridays 5:30-3:00.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Milton Nelson, Jr.  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3636

mn

March 7, 2004